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WE'RE OPEN...

RIBBON CUT ON FIRST PHASE OF MARQUETTE GREENWAY'S MICHIGAN PORTION

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PHOTO OF NEW BUFFALO CITY COUNCILMEMBER RICH KNOLL PRAISING THE MARQUETTE GREENWAY BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Tax abatement granted on food waste to methane plant

BY STAN MADDUX

Tax abatement has been awarded on a $70 million plant being constructed to convert food waste into natural gas at Kingsbury Industrial Park.

The LaPorte County Council granted the 10 year tax abatement Monday, April 28, to Nexus W2V, a leading waste processing solutions firm based in Greenville, South Carolina.

Matt Reardon with the LaPorte County Office of Economic Development said the tax abatement is strictly on the estimated $51 million in new equipment to be installed at the facility.

He said the projected the tax savings for the company will be about $2 million during the lifespan of the abatement.

Reardon said county government, though, will still collect a projected $644,000 in property taxes during the same time period on undeveloped land currently producing just $448 in property taxes.

In exchange for the tax breaks, the company agreed to make two separate payments totaling more than $120,000 to county government.

The plant will be able to process up to 200 tons of organic material like expired food and ingredients from major food processing plants from places like the Chicago area for use in converting it into natural gas.

According to company officials, the facility will produce enough natural gas to operate more than 47,000 homes while reducing the amount of food waste going into landfills.

Another source of food waste will include supermarket chains in the region with expired goods like cake mixes and cereal no longer available for sale.

Some of the projected 35 workers at the plant will remove food from packaged items for placement into a digester where all of the organic material will be mixed with water or some other liquid then heated.

The methane created from decomposition of the slurry will be captured and injected into existing NIPSCO natural gas pipelines for use by consumers.

A ground breaking ceremony was recently held at the 28 acre site where the facility is expected to start operating late next year.

A similar investment is planned on an expansion at some point after the facility begins running.

Whatever happens be confident, it was necessary. With your opinion, judgment, acts and moral purpose, however be cautious.
— Dino N. Fatouros

The ribbon is cut on ROAR Gallery

ROAR GALLERY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH RIBBON-CUTTING

The opening of another art gallery was celebrated during the official ribbon-cutting at ROAR Gallery, located at 6457 Warren Woods Road in Three Oaks, Friday, April 25.

The gallery, which was celebrating its one-year anniversary, features the colorful contemporary abstract paintings by Rick Ott, which he describes as "nonrepresentational," and enameled jewelry and mixed media collages by Angela Reichert.

Also on display was the recent Barn Bones series of large acrylic paintings, based on barns in the latter stage of their existence spanning realism, abstract and architectural influences, of Sawyer artist Roger Harvey. Kim Pruitt, who's a Three Oaks painter, writer and healer, was exhibiting paintings, drawings and mixed media works of art that reflect one's relations to self, loved ones, and the world.

Kimberlee Wendt, executive director of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, said both artists have "close ties" with the early days of the chamber: Pruitt is a past employee of the chamber and Harvey's artwork has graced past covers of the Harbor Country Guide many times.

She said that Ott and Reichert have helped spread the word with regards to Harbor Country being a haven for artists to express themselves.

"They were one of the original groups that really founded Harbor Country and made it known throughout the region as a place for artists to come and express their passion in so many different ways," she said. — FRANCESCA SAGALA

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
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Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

LaPorte loses another federal grant to cost slashing

BY STAN MADDUX

The City of LaPorte has now lost two previously awarded federal grants later taken back during a time of ongoing cost cutting in the nation's capital.

It's a situation experienced by other communities nationwide who were banking on those dollars for various future projects.

"We're disappointed," said La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody.

The latest cancelled funds were in the form of a $400,000 grant for the police department.

La Porte Assistant Police Chief Jim Ferguson said the grant was going to be used to update and purchase new technology such as desk top and lap top computers.

Ferguson said the grant was cancelled at a time when some of the lap top and desk top computers at the department of more than 40 officers are failing.

"We were going to use that to upgrade those or just get new ones. It's crippling that, that was pulled," he said.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody said he remains uncertain if the words "diversity" and "climate" in the city's funding application were taken out of context by federal decision makers when they pulled about $750,000 remaining from a $1 million grant used for removing old and unhealthy trees.

The current Trump administration in the White House has long taken an opposing stance on issues such as human diversity and climate change.

Dermody could not think of any wording in the police department's grant application that might have triggered a sudden withdrawal of those dollars.

No matter the reason, Dermody said he was especially dismayed because the two cancelled grants were actually for public safety, an issue Trump has long touted as one of his top priorities.

The other federal dollars awarded to the city last year were for removing as many as 900 old and unhealthy trees over a five year period.

Many of those trees, particularly during bad storms, pose a risk to human safety and property damage from falling or large branches coming down.

The word diversity in the grant application was chosen to describe the city's intent of creating a diverse urban forest since new trees of different species were going to replace the mostly maples targeted for removal.

Currently, Dermody said the city is working with Congressman Rudy Yakym's office and others involved with the tree grant application to try and recover those monies awarded by the U.S. Forest Service.

He said recouping those dollars is possible judging by some withdrawn grants similar to it across the country recently being restored.

"We'll see what happens," he said.

Dermody said the only option for recovering the police department grant, though, is to reapply for those dollars to be awarded next year.

He said the fate of that grant and many other cancelled ones nationwide has already been sealed because they came from other pools of federal money placed under direct scrutiny of the president.

"The president has signed this across the board," he said.

Dermody said he understands the need to control federal spending but exceptions to spending cuts should be made on previously awarded grants.

He said there's no money in the city's budget to replace those dollars and public safety could be jeopardized if response times suffer from officers going to the police station to do work they're completing now in their vehicles on the streets with lap top computers or if a tree falls before it could be removed.

"Absolutely, this puts us in a bind but we're going to get through it. We're no different in this fiscal matter than residents every day that have to live within their means," he said.

Generally, a writer of force is anywhere from 20 years to 200 years ahead of his generation.
— Charles Bukowski

SCHOLASTICS

SROs report on busy year at New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The school resource officers (SROs) at New Buffalo Elementary and Middle/High schools had a lot to report on during the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education's Monday, April 28, meeting.

"We did a lot this year," Rick Edgerle, SRO for the elementary school, said.

Edgerele and Brianna Schmitz, SRO for the middle/high school, said they did presentations for No Bullying, during which they received four reports and one of which submitted to the prosecutor's office for their review along with Okay to Say, during which they received six reports.

Edgerele and Brianna Schmitz, SRO for the middle/high school, said they did presentations for No Bullying, during which they received four reports and one of which submitted to the prosecutor's office for their review along with Okay to Say, during which they received six reports.

They implemented a Raptor Program, which is an emergency response system for all the staff. With the Raptor Program comes I Love You Guys Foundation, a new language for incident response that's going statewide.

More life vacs were added, as they're now on the buses.

This year, the district had five fire drills, three lockdown drills and three shelter in place drills, with the city assisting them.

Other accomplishments included adding cameras to the middle/high school and the pickleball courts and STEAM and transportation buildings, monthly meetings with school cabinet members and attending Bullying Task Force meetings.

Goals for the next school year include advanced assailant training for all staff, CPR and First Aid refresher training for all staff, hosting a lockdown reunification drill using Raptor, adding additional security cameras to the elementary school, updating the emergency operations plan with Raptor and I Love You Guys language and reviewing shelter in place locations with permeant maps.

Schmitz said that they also plan on the "full integration of the Raptor and GenTech."

"It's just making sure those two things speak to each so when we do have emergency it flashes on the screens, it goes on the audible, just making sure everybody knows what's going on," she said.

They'd also like to add a mock bedroom setup for drug awareness, as well as continue to work with the cannabis task force that includes with local dispensaries and the school's wellness group.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the biggest accomplishment was transitioning to the Raptor application along with I Love You Guys.

"Unfortunately, the 360 application was supposed to be able to do all these things and it just continued to fail and so we just identified that need immediately," he said, adding that they moved forward with the integration of Raptor.

Scott Knoll, director of business and finance with Berrien RESA, gave an update on the Berrien RESA preliminary budget.

For the General Fund, he's currently projecting a fund deficit of $496,000.

He said he's assuming that there'll be a two percent growth rate in valuations across the county, which isn't very "aggressive" compared to previous years.

He said he assumed the UAAL (Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability) money that the state gives them is going down; however, this has no effect on the "bottom line." All other state funding, as well as federal funding, was assumed flat.

"At the end of the day, I think my overall general fund revenues is about half a million dollars less than what my current budget is for this year," he said.

With regards to expenses, on the general fund side, Knoll said they're adding a supervisor of apprenticeship, who will run all apprenticeships throughout the county that will be funded through the Talent Together Collaborative, as well as an educational systems supervisor on the instructional services side that will be grant funded.

"Basically, what it amounts to at the end of the day is right now about a half million-dollar deficit in the general fund," he said.

Knoll added that it includes $475,000 of capital expenditures, with about two thirds of that being in the administrative building and a third of it in the newer innovation center.

He added that they have a "very strong fund balance that's between 19-20 percent in the general fund."

"Structurally, in the general fund, we don't have a deficit – our deficit is being produced primarily because of the capital spending we anticipate so those projects will continue into 2025-2026," he said.

On the Special Education side, a consultant in the diagnostics compliance area, a couple of half-time FTE paraprofessionals within the autistic program and another compliance director will be added, with Knoll saying all positions will be grant funded.

At the end of the day, Knoll said there will be about a $1.4 million surplus on the Special Education side.

Board members adopted the resolution of the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's General Fund Operating Budget.

A quote from MOSS for the installation of additional cameras at the elementary school was approved.

Board members approved a marketing agreement with DNA Creative.

Board members authorized Michael Lindley to submit a Pokagon Fund Grant request in the amount of $13,500 for the Environmental Study, which Bowen said will be for four seasons, for vegetation (trees, plants, etc.) at the site of the Bison Preserve and Trails.

SPORTS

Like day and night for Raiders in doubleheader split

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders were badly defeated but came roaring back to split a doubleheader at home Tuesday, April 29, in girls' softball.

The Raiders lost 10-0 to Berrien Springs but then defeated the Shamrocks 20-5 at New Buffalo High School.

In the first game, the Raiders were overpowered by the fastball of pitcher Olivia Spenner, who struck out 12 of the 15 batters she faced in the game called under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10 rule after the fourth inning.

Spenner had a no-hitter until Johnna Rochefort hit a sharp single up the middle with just one out left in the final inning.

In comparison, Raiders starting pitcher, Greta Vollman, struggled with her control.

Most of the runs scored by the Shamrocks resulted from walks or batters hit by pitches.

Vollman was much sharper, though, when returning as the starting pitcher in the second game.

"Greta did an amazing job of putting the first game behind her and focusing on what she needed to do for the team," said Raiders Head Coach Erick Rochefort.

The bats also heated up for the Raiders against Brianna Wolff, whose fastball was not nearly as blazing.

The Raiders were leading 3-2 when they put the game away with eight runs in the third inning and nine runs in the fourth inning.

The game was then called under a MHSAA rule that requires play be stopped if a team has a 15 run lead after the third inning.

Freshman Addie Lynch drove in three of the runs with three hits in four at bats while sophomore Emma Seifert drove in two runs and scored four times from reaching base on two hits and twice being hit by pitches.

Freshman Rylee Rudolph went 3 for 3 at the plate and drove in two runs.

Senior Ava Ledesma drove in two runs and scored three times.

The Raiders are now 6-5 on the season while Berrien Springs is 7-10.

Rochefort also gave credit to the offense for rebounding at the plate after the discouraging loss.

"The girls did a great job of refocusing after the first game and coming into game two with a smart approach to hitting and adjusting to the second pitcher," he said.

Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.
— Aesop

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

We left off last week about to discuss the Chicago Bears, but because the draft was this week we decided to wait.

Let's take a snapshot at where the Bears ended the season and where they stand right now.

The first change the Bears made was to hire a new coach, and, boy, did they shine with their choice. Ben Johnson had been the first choice of most teams that needed a coach for two or three years, but he wanted to work in Chicago with quarterback Caleb Williams and the home of Wrigley Field.

Thank goodness, because with the assistant coaches he hired, the Bears will be infinitely more exciting and so much better than they were last year.

Next came the free agents and trades. Everyone that watched the Bears last year could plainly see that the Bears needed to upgrade their offensive line. Last year, they led the league in sacks allowed and their running game was subpar.

In the past, the Bears may have overlooked this weakness, but not this year. They needed better guard play, so they went out and traded for two new guards, including an all-pro. They also needed a center desperately and during free agency they picked up the best one available. The offensive line went from a disaster to a strength in one off season.

This past week, the annual college football draft took place and the Bears had the tenth pick in the first round. There were hundreds of people publishing thousands of "mock" drafts in the weeks and months leading up to the draft.

Most of the prognosticators were sure the Bears were going to draft a running back or a lineman, either offensive or defensive.

Well, all the ones the Bears wanted were either previously chosen or the Bears didn't really want them in the first place. A few of the experts thought the Bears might pick the tight end from Penn State, but instead, fooling almost everyone, they chose Michigans tight end Colton Loveland. Bears coach Ben Johnson seems to love Loveland and believes he will be a big asset and aid in the development of Caleb Williams.

Next they drafted wide receiver Luther Burden and suddenly they have an embarrassment of riches on offense. They will probably add a veteran running back or two and their offense will be complete. The draft continued with the Bears choosing an offensive lineman then a defensive lineman, then added a linebacker and a cornerback for help on defense.

Finally, they drafted another offensive lineman and their last pick was a running back. I'm not sure if a Super Bowl is right around the corner, but the improvement will be huge and the playoffs are a definite possibility.

I loved when the coach said that he didn't just want to beat their opponents, he wanted to annihilate them.

Mark Twain said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

WHAT IS OIL PULLING

Oil pulling is an ancient Ayurvedic therapy that continues to emerge in the holistic news arena. It is animmune-boosting remedy that can help pull toxins from the body through the mouth. It entails swishing 1 Tablespoon of a raw healthy oil in your mouth for 5-15 minutes in themorning. It will draw toxins out through your mouth, also cleansing your mouth and teeth. A clean mouth is said to be crucial for both dental and overall health.

Some of its many benefits that it offers are helping RE-mineralize your teeth, soothes and helps heal sensitive gums, gingivitis, bleeding and receding gums. It even improves oral hygiene by removing particles and cleaning hard-to-reach areas that your toothbrush cannot. Anytime you can detox poisons from your body and mouth, you know that you are doing an effective natural modality for your health

You can use cold pressed Sesame or olive oil, but I prefer the cold pressed coconut oil, as there are alsomany additional healing properties in coconut oil. It has anti-microbial benefits that can fight odor and give you fresh breath. It also helps whiten your teeth. Coconut oilhas a flash point of 76 degrees. So over 76 it will be liquid, under 76 it will be solid. No worries, it melts quickly in your mouth and it tastes good too.

Remember to SPIT OUT the oil after the pulling, as it is full of bacteria. Don't swallow it or spit it into the sink. It is oil, and could eventually plug the drain. Use a waste basket. Oil pulling is a supplement, not a replacement for regular oral hygiene practices like brushing and flossing. Brush your teeth as usual afterwards.

Keep your oil in your bathroom right near your toothbrush so it will be handy and you will remember. Some people say they oil pull during their morning quick shower. Personally, I swish until a gag reflex starts, then I know I am done! Sometimes only 3 minutes, but even thatdoes the job when done regularly. You can oil pull a few times a week, or as often as you feel necessary. It helpsreduce plaque and prevent tartar buildup. Once you startoil pulling, you will feel a clean slippery feel on your teeth, knowing that they are truly cleaned.

Here is an easy recipe to ensure that you will do this faithfully. Turmeric increases the cleaning power, adds an extra whitening and has been shown to reduce bacteria that causes cavities. It also helps reduce inflammation.

OIL PULLING CHEWS. Melt ½ Cup coconut oil and ½ teaspoon powdered turmeric in a small pan. Add the oil to a small cube tray. Freeze them, then put into a Ziplockbag, keeping them in the freezer. Take one out each time you want to do your oil pulling. It melts in your mouth. Quick and easy.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

Bison sweep doubleheader from River Valley

BY STAN MADDUX

After losing both games of a doubleheader, the New Buffalo High School varsity baseball team got back on the winning track by sweeping River Valley in a doubleheader at home Tuesday, April 29.

The Bison (8-2) defeated the Mustangs 10-0 and 2-1.

In the first game, senior Nick Wolfe shined by driving in four runs and striking out 10 batters while giving up just two hits with no walks in going the distance from the mound.

"I was just confident, letting my fast ball work and getting ahead early in the counts and letting my defense work," he said.

Wolfe was among the first five batters to start the first inning with hard hit singles off pitcher Sean Driscoll.

The first run was driven in by senior Ethan Lijewski then Wolfe followed by knocking in the next two runs.

Eventually, Wolfe scored the final run of the inning from third base on a pitch that got away from the catcher.

Three more runners crossed the plate for the Bison in the second inning on a double to the right center field gap from Wolfe and single by freshman Colten Lijewski.

Sophomore Braeden Bergerson reached base on a single in the third inning and came home on a single from sophomore Drew Bowen.

Wolfe was in the spotlight again in the fourth inning when he hit what should have been a double down the left field foul line.

However, he suffered a leg cramp and fell to the ground after reaching first base.

He was replaced by pinch runner, senior Miles Casper, who was forced out at second base to end the inning.

Wolfe determined to finish pitching the game returned and gave up a lead-off single then struck out the next three batters.

The game was called at the bottom of the inning under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10 run rule when two Bison runners crossed the plate.

Wolfe said he was not bothered on the mound by the leg cramp.

"It didn't affect me," he said.

Wolfe, who didn't see much time on the mound last season, went on to play travel ball during the summer and worked on his pitching skills to become one of the best members of the Bison pitching staff.

In the second game, the Mustangs scored in the first inning and were still leading until the 5th inning when Colten Lijewski and Bowen drove in the only runs for the Bison.

The starting pitcher was Bergerson, who gave up three hits and struck out nine batters until replaced in the fifth inning with Colten Lijewski.

Lijewski gave up no hits while striking out three of the seven batters he faced.

The only team that seems positioned to stop the Bison from repeating as District 4 championships is Michigan Lutheran.

The Titans swept the Bison in an April 22 doubleheader 5-4 and 5-4.

Nevertheless, Wolfe said this year's team has improved.

"We got a better pitching staff. We can hit. We're all around better," he said.

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Amy Renzulli stands by her music-inspired artwork at School of American Music

Bill Boyce stands by one of his foudn objects sculptures at Courtyard Gallery

Celebrating 'All That Is Art' during Art Attack weekend

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

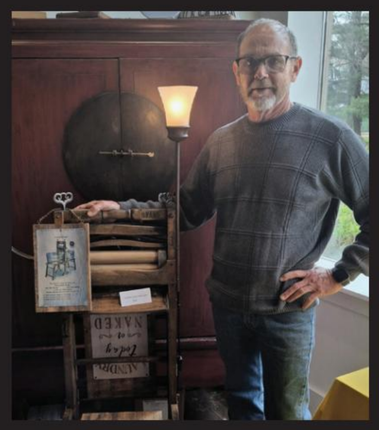
Art in many shapes and forms was blossoming all over the region during the 31st annual Art Attack, which took place Thursday through Sunday, April 24-27.

The unofficial harbinger to the area's warm weather season, this year, Art Attack featured 36 participating businesses that played host to artist receptions and exhibits, bespoke cocktail and mocktail tutorials, live music and a gallery hike.

The weekend kicked off with a launch party at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts Thursday, April 24, where students from New Buffalo Area Schools and River Valley Schools participated in an Artist Talk. A ribbon-cutting was held for ROAR Gallery, the area's newest gallery (see page 3), and there were 17 artists featured at Commune + Market, which also held a ribbon-cutting, in Three Oaks (see page 18).

Ruthie Saldivar displays her work at Heritage Hall as part of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Matt Raney works on a painting at David's Delicatessen and Coffee



Don Ashley stands by his clothes ringer table light at Local Color Gallery

Twyla Butler had her Bell Jar Reef on display at Local Color Gallery

Stella Merkle works at the pottery wheel with New Buffalo art teacher Ashley Jager as part of the student display in the STEAM building

Laima V. Petrulis discusses one of her mixed media pieces with Regina Abate and Vida Sheehan at Union Pier Social

Thomas Allen Pauly stands by his latest art series, Shaken, Not Stirred at Commune + Market

Abstract-realist portraiture artist Joni Maloney stands by her work at Goods and Heroes

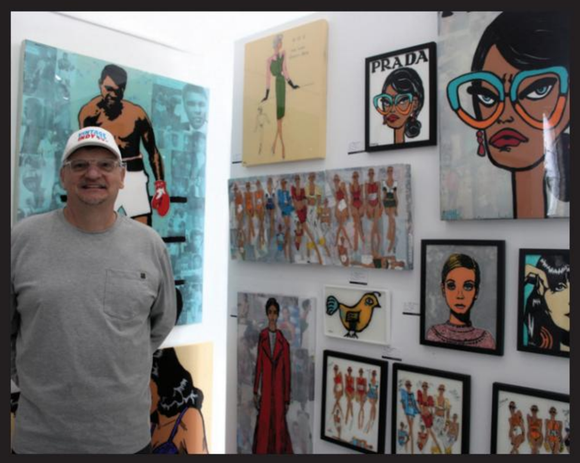
Members of Homemade Jam perform at Local Color Gallery

Kathy Fodness and Kelly Standiford admire the pottery in Heritage Hall

Frank Kurland has his dreamscapes on display at Commune + Market

Ken Neumann displayed his handcrafted furniture at Commune + Market

Janis Kanter displays her textile collages at Commune + Market



Matt Swenson stands by his mixed media pieces at New Buffalo Art Gallery

Ashley Jager, Gia Bergquist, Mylo Walters, Nikki Gauthier, Janet Davies Emily VanTuyle, Leia Williams and Nicole Rimes take The Acorn stage

Amy Butts of Ladysmith Jewelry stands by her Wearable Heirlooms at Goods and Heroes

Keek Bielby stands by her display of framed oil paintings at Commune + Market

Goldberry Woods spearheads prevention campaign with schools, businesses and Mighty Acorns

Goldberry Woods, a modern farm resort nestled in the heart of Harbor Country, proudly wrapped up an inspiring two-month community engagement campaign centered around tick prevention, education, and environmental stewardship.

Throughout March and April, the Goldberry team led a creative initiative to collect empty toilet paper rolls to create simple yet powerful tick prevention tools known as "tick tubes." By filling these rolls with cotton balls or dryer lint treated with permethrin, and placing them around properties, residents can significantly reduce the local tick population by targeting ticks carried by mice.

New Buffalo Elementary Students participate in tick tube diatribution

Elementary students placing tick tubes

The campaign caught fire in the local community, engaging schools, families, and businesses in an eco-conscious cause. A particularly heartwarming highlight was the collaboration with New Buffalo Elementary School, Mighty Acorns and Chikaming Open Lands (COL) during a hike through Turtle Creek Preserve. Students learned about the tick lifecycle and sustainable prevention methods and participated in distributing tick tubes throughout the area.

"It was magical," said one organizer. "The kids were incredibly engaged—they asked amazing questions, explored nature up close, and even discovered salamanders and ticks in their natural habitat. You could see their curiosity and care grow in real time."

For Julie Haberichter, co-owner of Goldberry Woods, the mission is deeply personal. Having experienced the effects of Lyme disease within her family, she's passionate about education and prevention—and determined to turn Goldberry into a hub for community-led environmental action.

"This wasn't just about toilet paper rolls," said Haberichter. "It was about empowering our community—especially our youth—with the knowledge and tools to care for themselves and the earth."

Thanks to an overwhelming response, hundreds of toilet paper rolls were collected and distributed as tick tubes across properties throughout Harbor Country. Goldberry Woods also hosted an educational station in their barn, welcoming guests and locals to learn and contribute.

This initiative is part of Goldberry's larger commitment to sustainability, nature conservation, and community connection. Plans are already underway for an even bigger effort in 2026, with March and April once again marked as prime tick prevention months.

Whether you're a curious guest, a passionate environmentalist, or a neighbor who loves nature, Goldberry Woods invites you to be part of the growing movement—and maybe even save your toilet paper rolls for next year.

Goldberry Woods is a modern farm resort, bed and breakfast, and micro-farm located in Union Pier, Michigan. With a mission rooted in sustainability, regenerative agriculture, and immersive guest experiences, Goldberry is a place where nature and community thrive together. Learn more at www.goldberrywoods.com. — STAFF REPORTS

Harbor Country Chamber Executive Director Kimberlee Wendt praises the Marquette Greenway

A view of the trailhead at Smith and Mechanic streets

State Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph) presents a tribute from the state

Ribbon cut on first phase of Marquette Greenway's Michigan portion

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The dream of having a nonmotorized trail that will connect Chicago with New Buffalo took a step closer to being achieved when the ribbon was cut on Phase One of Michigan's portion of the Marquette Greenway Friday, April 25.

"What started years ago as a bold idea is now officially hitting the pavement – literally... Today we celebrate the completion of Michigan's first stretch of the Marquette Greenway Trail," Gary Wood, president of the Friends of Berrien County Trails and chair of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, said.

Local bicycle enthusiasts, hikers, funders, donors, local and county public officials and state representatives gathered at the trailhead at Smith and Mechanic streets, which is the location of a groundbreaking on Phase One a little over a year ago.

The trailhead will serve as a starting and end point for the four-mile Michigan portion of the 60-mile non-motorized trail from New Buffalo to east Chicago at Calumet Park.

First introduced in 2005, the Marquette Greenway was established as a priority by the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission in 2009 and again in 2017.

The trail will connect five counties with 15 municipalities, one National Park, one state park and almost 200,000 people living within 1.5 miles of the trail along the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

The trail connects the coastal communities of three states around the southern bend of Lake Michigan, with work continuing to connect to the Red Arrow Trail to the north and beyond.

Phase One includes the trailhead with parking, a picnic area and a bike repair station and a 10-foot-wide paved path along U.S. 12 from Willard Street to the railroad crossing at Grand Beach Road.

Contractor Kalin Construction and the engineering firm Abonmarche oversaw the year-long trail construction, which began last spring.

Phase Two will continue the path along Grand Beach Road to the Indiana/Michigan state line and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026 in cooperation with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Berrien County Road Department, the Village of Grand Beach and New Buffalo Township.

Funding was contributed from many diverse public and private sources including The Pokagon Fund, New Buffalo Township, the City of New Buffalo, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) federal Transportation Alternatives Program, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, Berrien Community Foundation, many generous family foundations and more than 200 individuals.

Lance Brooks, grant coordinator at the Michigan Department of Transportation, said that the Transportation Alternatives Program exists to help fund "regional, nonmotorized facilities to help increase mobility choices, relieve traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and fuel consumption, but also promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles to improve quality of life."

"We have found communities here in southwest Michigan aspire to provide nonmotorized facilities for their residents and visitors and have been working to establish this regional trail system....We applaud the work of these local communities, the counties and Friends of Berrien County Trails on what they plan for and continue to build trails in each community that desires it," he said.

Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kimberlee Wendt said that Phase One's completion is just the "start."

"It is definitely part of the mission for this area to focus on natural, eco-friendly activities and adds to the fun that can be experienced in Harbor Country...We've already seen some of the economic effects of this trail and businesses that see that as such a bonus to conduct business in the area," she said.

Arthur Havelich, president of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, said there's been a need for an amenity "to improve our quality and attractiveness for residents and visitors."

"Chicago and southwest Michigan have been linked in spirit for a long, long time and now they are physically linked by trail that's going to be enjoyed by countless individuals," he said.

Rich Knoll, a member of the New Buffalo City Council, said trails play several vital roles, such as their "wellbeing of residents, increasing property values and bringing consumers to businesses."

Gary Wood is presented with a plaque from Marcy Hamilton

Friends of Berrien County Trails President Gary Wood thanks supporters

Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber President Arthur Havelich speaks about the benefits of the Marquette Greenwa

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit speaks about the Marquette Greenway

Government officials and supporters cut the ribbon on Phase One of the Marquette Greenway

"This trail provides a safe option for people to visit our city and as anybody who has been here in the summer can tell you, reducing the number of cars on our roads and in our parking lots is not a bad thing," he said.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that they were celebrating more than just a new trail

"We are celebrating the power of collaboration, the strength of community and the vision of those who saw the potential for something great and worked tirelessly to make it a reality," she said.

Mac Elliott, Berrien County 10th district representative and chair of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, said that that the different governmental units serve as role models for "everything else in Berrien County."

"The cities of Berrien County, the board of commissioners, are so proud of each and every one of you not just at the state level but the federal level, our county road department and also our local units of government," he said.

The following individuals received certificates for their work on the trail: Mitch Barloga, with the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Caroline Ramsey, Diane Pyshos, Heather Gradowski, Joanne Sims, Peggy McTigue, Willa Lang, Arnie Feinberg, Rob Gow, Chad Gradowski, Michelle Heit, John Humphrey, Robert Kemper, Katie Maroney, Tony Mcghee, Lou O'Donnell, Blake O'Halloran, JV Peacock, Dan Petersen, Bryan Volstorf and Judy Zabicki.

Marcy Hamilton, deputy director of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, saw the trail's creation through many challenges, including assisting New Buffalo Township in securing an easement from Amtrak. The 10-foot wide, paved path follows the train tracks along a portion of U.S. 12 south of New Buffalo.

"If this trail had a heartbeat, it would be hers... Through every twist, delay, detour and dashed timeline, Marcy has been our steady hand, our north star and our calm in the storm, and, with grace and grit, she kept us moving forward," Wood said.

Hamilton said that Wood spearheaded the first Berrien County Trails Master Plan, which will aid in the effort to connect all Berrien County communities with 100 miles of trail.

For his efforts, the City of New Buffalo has dedicated the trailhead to Wood.

"With his visionary leadership, we've accomplished so much in this county and with all your support and your help, he's been the leader," she said.

More on the Marquette Greenway can be found at www.berrientrails.org/marquettegw.asp or www.in.gov/nirpc/transportation/the-marquette-greenway-project-site.

OBITUARIES

Anne Kennedy McCafferty (Horrigan)

1934-2025

Anne Kennedy McCafferty (Horrigan), formerly of New Buffalo, MI, Baytown, TX and Cleveland, OH joined her husband James I. McCafferty in heaven on April 27, 2025.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 18, 1934, Anne was the oldest daughter of Joseph and Geraldine Horrigan. She lived her early life in Cleveland, OH graduating from The Beaumont School in 1953 and was a member of the first graduating class of women at the University of Dayton with an education degree. She taught middle school English and History at St. Joseph's School in Baytown, TX before "retiring" to New Buffalo, MI where she eventually retired after another twenty-five years of substitute teaching. In addition to a good book and her Irish heritage, she loved the classroom and left an indelible mark on those students who were fortunate to have her as a teacher.

Anne is survived by her three children, James McCafferty, Jr. of Texas, Neil McCafferty (Carolyn Natale) of Massachusetts, and Molly Seegers (Scott) of Connecticut; her three sisters, Jane Horrigan, Helen Geiss and Sue Horrigan; her grandchildren, Patrick, Jack, Louis, Sean, Brian, Eileen, Teddy and Laura; and her great grandson, River. She is preceded in death by her husband James McCafferty; her two brothers Jack Horrigan and Joseph H

A funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 PM, Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 12601 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, OH. Interment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland, OH. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to your local library or animal shelter.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Observing...

I felt good walking into DIC Entertainment's studio on my second day. It was nice to be a part of something. Iwas getting to know people, and one of those people was Sandy Fries.

As I walked past the cubicles, I remembered Lori saying, "Sandy will tell you what you do as an assistant story editor." So far he hadn't told me much. Instead he painted broad strokes about what he does as the story editor. That was okay because I also remembered Lori saying I should keep my "eyes open about what he does."

I learned Sandy earned a B.A. in Journalism, is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, then added an M.S. in Journalism from Columbia. My father would be only too happy to tell him what he could do with those degrees in the real world. But I was impressed.

Sandy had penned a few Diff'rent Strokes and The Smurfs episodes so he has a little street cred. Still, beinga story editor was different, requiring different skillsets.

Around noon a writer came in. Sandy told the writerone of his spring board was approved and that he should start on a treatment. Excited, the writer stood with, "I'm on it!"

Sandy stopped him with, "Is there something you forgot to say?" When the writer looked at him quizzically, Sandy said, "It's customary to say 'Thank you'."

The writer glanced to me, then to Sandy and uncomfortably said, "Thanks..." Then he was on his way. I wasn't sure why Sandy needed to hear the writer saythanks, but the interchange made me uncomfortable too...along with some other things.

The next day I enjoyed walking past artists' cubicles and seeing them busily 'sketching away'. In time I'd learn some were building 'model sheets' – art studies that will show a series' characters in various poses, standardizing appearances and gestures for other artists to duplicate, providing continuity to a series. Other artists had other tasks, but I particularly liked watching the model sheets take shape and how the artists brought the characters to life.

Still, I could only hang around artists so long since we don't speak the same language. It was my second day at the new studio and Lori was somewhere out of the office. So after lunch I drifted back to Sandy. He had me read a couple of Care Bears scripts to familiarize myself with the series, which made sense. But he was surprised when I ask to see the series bible, like I wasn't supposed to know about series bibles.

When I reminded him I'd worked on The Littles, he said, "Oh yeah..." As he pulled the Care Bears series bible from his desk drawer, I wondered why he hadn't given it to me the day before. I spent the rest of the day reading the series bible and more scripts.

As the day ended and I started to leave with the series bible and two more scripts, Sandy called, "Bring them back tomorrow." I glanced at him, almost asking, "Do you think I'm planning on peddling them on the black market?" Instead, I just left.

Back home, at my rented condo, I was gloomy. By the time I finished rereading the series bible and the scripts, I knew why. It had been more than three weeks since I'd written anything. I walked down the third floor corridor toward Jean's condo and knocked on his door, hoping he'll throw me a lifeline.

Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.

HOROSCOPE

MAY 1-7, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is a lot of planetary energy centered on your sign now and it is giving you a big push forward. Go with the flow and make things happen for yourself. Understand that the transitions will affect your social networking areas too so, be careful who you surround yourself with.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Sometimes you have to take the high road and follow the advice of authority figures or the wisdom of the elders. Don't get hung up on being fashionable or what the other kids do. Do what's right for you and stand by it. The only person you have to answer to is the higher self.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You are clear for takeoff. Get out there and start enjoying more social interactions. This is not the time to be couped up or crammed in a corner. The opportunity to learn new things and find new areas to move into are approaching but you have to get off the couch. Spread your wings and go.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

There is a lot happening in your business and financial areas of your life. This is the time to change things up and make more out of what you already do and have. Do what you do best and the assistance you need will arise. Start putting out more authentic and original ideas. Scrap the rewrites.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Start planning your adventure. The energy coming your way will push you into a more outgoing attitude, giving you the chance to meet someone new or connect with a new hobby. Transformations are up and coming in your interpersonal relationships and business partnerships.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This is the week to handle business affairs and money issues. Even in intimate partnerships money and resources are important issues to talk about. Take the opportunity to be savvy and frugal with your finances. Reign in unnecessary spending and start looking for ways to regroup and redistribute.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

There is a tendency to lead in relationships and you are not always used to another person calling the more intimate shots. Be ready for that to be challenged this week. Even if you appear to be a yes person, there are certain things you don't like to compromise on. They will be challenged now.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

This is the time to rearrange your life to include more healthier options and exercising consistently. You can easily get with the program of taking better care of things once you start looking at diet and exercise as a fact of life. There are no mysteries or secret cures, just eating better and moving more.

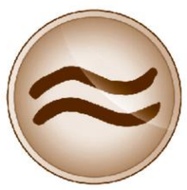
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

This is the time to get things off your chest and clear the air with partners or people you deal with on a daily basis. It's important to let conversations flow naturally but don't be afraid to steer things toward a more intimate tone when, the opportunity presents itself.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Focus in on your home and living arrangements this week. Start the renovation projects. Get rooms rearranged and things organized. Set things up to be more streamlined and uncluttered. Spending time at home always recharges you so, invest your energy there and create some serenity.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Sometimes you just have to return to the basics and stop making things too fancy or complicated. If you want people to understand where you're coming from keep it simple. Ten words or less. Be more succinct with your instructions and always answer the phone; clarity will be needed.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The energy coming your way is all about aligning your finances and purchasing more aware of what you invest in and who you ultimately support with your purchases. You like being frugal but you don't like supporting things that are not harmonious.

First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you. — *F. Scott Fitzgerald*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	5	8				3		
			2		3			7
		2	5	8			1	9
								1
5			3		9	4		
		7	4		2			
		1						
		3			1		8	
9	8							2

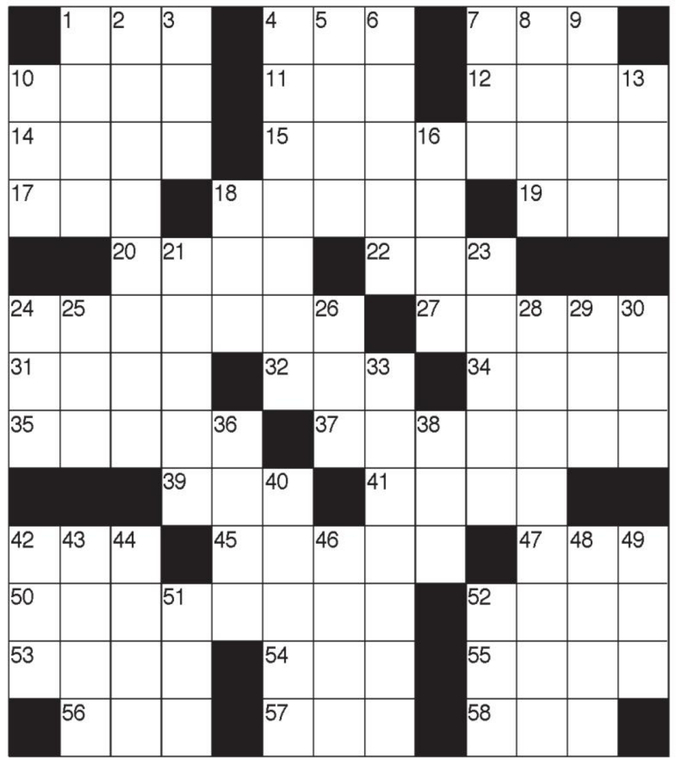
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Tumor (suf.)
4 Amer. Standard Version (abbr.)
7 Amer. Cancer Society (abbr.)
10 Indian red powder
11 Never (Ger.)
12 Manger
14 Oven
15 Denote
17 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
18 Chic
19 Wicked
20 Eelworm
22 Under (pref.)
24 High prelate
27 Spine bones
31 Musette
32 Venerable
34 Fetter
35 Wash
37 Goa powder
39 Shak. contraction
41 Sayings (suf.)
42 Barely get by
45 Conduit
47 Exclamation
50 Educated
52 Little: music
53 In the matter of (2 words)
54 Asian gazelle
55 Hall (Ger.)
56 Office of Economic Development (abbr.)
57 Once hip
58 Indiana (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Fetish
2 Husband of Atalanta
3 Scot. alder tree
4 Lively: music
5 Trigonometric function
6 Hindu sacred writings
7 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
8 Crustacean
9 Wife of Ramachandra
10 Also known as (abbr.)
13 Sleeping location
16 Odyssey beggar
18 Small (Scot.)
21 Insect
23 Child (Scot.)
24 For (Sp.)
25 Slugger's stat
26 Guido's note (2 words)
28 Roanoke Island message
29 Dispossess
30 Collection of sayings
33 Sere (2 words)
36 Abstract being
38 Berne's river
40 Father of Abraham
42 Teacher of Samuel
43 Bingolike gambling game
44 To be (Fr.)
46 Alas (Ger.)
48 Cigarfish
49 Bengal people
51 Detective
52 Greek letter



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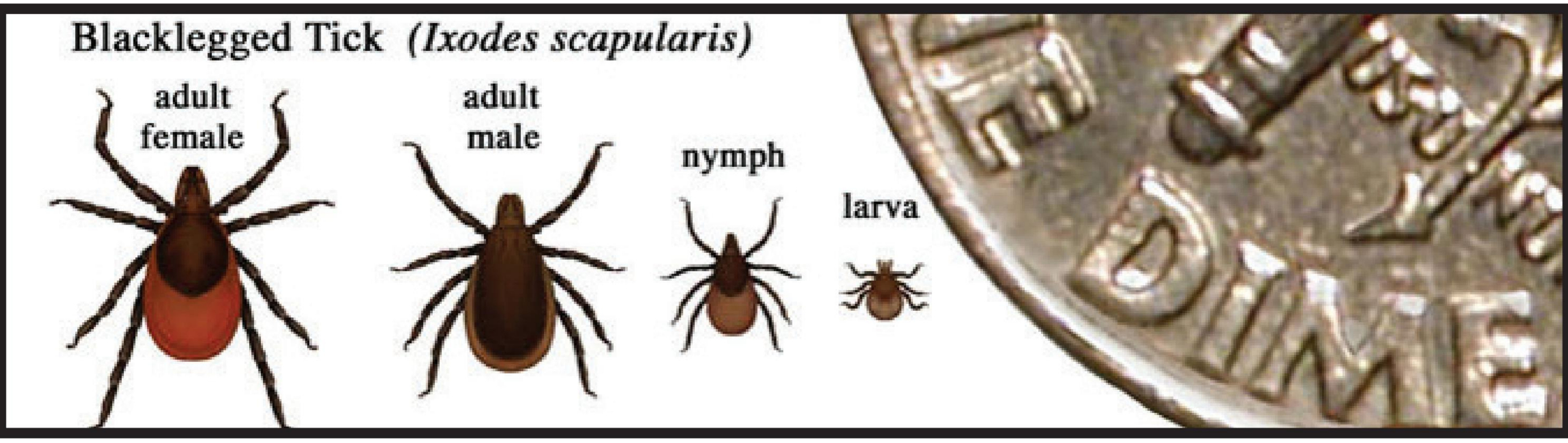

A Day in the Life

BE GOOD CITIZENS...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

So much of the airwaves are filled with political hot air today that it's almost impossible to get yourself a deep breath, much less a clear mind. On the one hand there is a chance of a growing citizen sentiment to toss in the towel and let the politicians duke it out. When I entertain myself I have one simple rule for conversation: no discussion of politics and no discussion about religion. I'd like to suspend both of those rules today. I have lived these many years and never felt the insecurity that I sense today. More and more it becomes clear that our comfy little democracy is in peril. At the risk of sounding like a political tramp; it is more and more clear to my simple mind that even with my childish naivete that something is not right in Washington. You don't have to be a Fulbright scholar to sense the growing craziness with our fearless leaders in Washington. While the party in power at this junction are the Republicans, it is clear to anyone and everyone that the Republicans have lost their mantle of distinction of that name to the newer, more accurate "Trump Party". Accepting that fact is key to anything and almost everything.

I recall meeting the Donald at Mar A-lago right at the time he made his purchase some twenty five years ago. He was standing in the elegant living room with his kids riding their tricycles all about on the silk rugs while no one directed them to stop their destruction of the ancient rugs. I was standing with my date admiring the photos behind the couch on a long carved table holding a magnificent collection of photographs framed in gorgeous heavy silver frames of generals in tall helmets with points on top and ladies with elaborate dresses and poised hair. Marji of the Detroit News, who was very outspoken, drawled to Trump "Donald, who are all of these people in these fabulous silver frames?" He responded by saying "Well. It's very strange. When we were touring the house all of these photos were here and we assumed they would be taken before the final steps of the closing but the family never took them"!

It was the movie star daughter that inherited the property and I knew she hated it because one of my clients was a friend of hers and she would invite her to go to Mar A Lago for the weekend. They were roommates at U of M. My friend Marion said "Hell I loved it in the morning, you'd reach over and pull on a velvet cord and then, like magic, they delivered your breakfast on a silver tray. It was fabulous. The movie star's daughter thought the whole place was overdone and Gross!

What does that prove? There is a God.

The passing of the current Pope is not the loss of any old Pope. It's the passing of a great man and humanitarian. It is a reminder that we should all make an attempt to hold the values of this Pope who had friends like "Morning Joe" and millions of others of every stripe. Riding in his "Pope-Mobile" and shaking hands and kissing babies, he was not in any way a formal– type Pope which made him more popular.

As mentioned, President Trump announced he will be attending the funeral with his loving wife to be remembered in history along with his four indictments and other convictions and lest we forget his probable bankruptcy of the once richest country in the world.

PET OF THE WEEK

SQUIRREL

Squirrel's little face is one of those faces that instantly melts hearts. And it's not just her face that is darling; it's her personality, too! She's a total ham! Squirrel likes to play for a little bit, then have someone pets her, then she will curl up on her fluffy kitty bed so people can continue admiring her. It's like she knows she is the prettiest calico. Squirrel will be the best addition to a lucky home. She is almost one year old, is spayed, and her vaccinations are up-to-date. She asks for no dog friends in her new home.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

7	5	8	1	9	6	3	2	4
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Chamber Board President John Bonoske, executive director Kimberlee Wendt, owners Jim Dygas and Tim Knibbs and member development manager Patty Knicker cut the ribbon

Handmade Studio invites guests to create art

Guests relax by the fireplace

Ribbon cut on community-spirited Commune + Market

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Cool vibes and community spirit abound at Commune + Market.

What that means from one person to the next might differ, though.

"Which is why they embrace all types of experiences that are under this roof because everybody sees that in a different light and so they are able to meet that expectation as to what you think is a 'cool vibe,'" Kimberlee Wendt, who's the executive director of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, said.

The chamber, along with a crowd of supporters, celebrated the official opening of Commune + Market with a ribbon-cutting Friday, April 25.

Located in Three Oaks, the new gathering spot invites visitors to sip a fresh brew from Alan and Ray's The Coffee Place and nurture their inner creativity by making interactive art at Handmade Studio.

Wendt added that the market is "evolving," with an "ever-changing market of vendors."

Owners Jim Dygas and Tim Knibbs, who founded the Chicago-based Urban Accents Inc. in the mid-1990s, said that Commune's origins can be traced back to "a bunch of wine on a couch with Tom (Pauly), and Marco (Chavarry)," with Pauly being the owner of A Drawing Room and Chavarry the owner of Alapash New Home, both in downtown Three Oaks.

"We walked by this building after one of the 'Stroll' nights and entire town was festive and having fun and there was wine in the shops and twinkle lights – and this was a dark hole," Dygas said.

He said they met with Jan Smith, who showed them the building on a Tuesday and "we bought it on a Thursday."

Dygas said that the "spirit, vibe and humor" of Reyna Larson and Alice Hoffmann, the duo behind Ray & Al's in Galien, infiltrates Alan Ray's, a cozy, community-focused coffee shop offering specialty coffee, teas, pastries, and grab-and-go options. Guests can enjoy their treats at several tables or couches that are scattered around a fireplace.

Further back is Handmade Studio, a community-focused space offering art classes, workshops, art prints, handmade goods, and more by owners Carin Weston and Ben Sass.

"The creativity in that corner it's so exciting - I love having kids in there taking classes and that was another goal for this space," Dygas said.

In the back is The Annex, an ever-evolving event space that can be rented out for weddings, a high-energy corporate event or a community gathering. The heart of The Annex, The Main Hall is an expansive 2,600-square-foot wedding and event venue ideal for corporate, cultural, and social events that features a14-foot glass garage door, catering kitchen/bar, grand staircase, high ceilings and natural light. Perched on the second floor is The Mezzanine Gallery, a 1,500–square-foot gallery.

As part of Art Attack weekend, there were 17 artists who had their work on display in The Annex (see page 10).

Dygas said that The Annex was Smith's "conception and execution" and that she helped bring Alan Ray's there.

He also thanked Heidi Smith, Commune + Market's general manager/events director, for being a part of their new venture.

"We wanted to create something that expresses as much love as we have for the town and its people," he said.

Commune + Market is located at 105 N Elm Street in Three Oaks. For more information, as well as future events, visit www.commune-market.com.

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